

Revelation 12

12:1,2

John reveals the true identity of the mother of the Seed in his vision recorded in **Revelation 12:1-17**. That identity is three-fold. First, the Seed of the Woman was born of the virgin Mary of Nazareth, whose Child was venomously attacked at his birth by Herod (**cf. Matt 2:16-18**). John's picture of the Dragon Serpent hovering over the mother to devour her child at birth precisely corresponds to the gospel account of Matthew and the savagery of King Herod. Jesus, as born of a virgin, was like Adam in that he had no father but God. The birth of Jesus by a virgin uniquely explains the strange formulation "Seed of the Woman." The woman brings forth her Seed in pain (**Rev 12:2; cf. Gen 3:16**).

But the vision of John further identifies on the mother of the Seed, identifying her as "clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (**Rev 12:1-2**). The reference is to the dream of Joseph, who saw the sun, moon, and the eleven stars bowing before him (**Gen 37:9-11**). Joseph's father Jacob interpreted the dream to foretell Joseph's supremacy in Israel. The application of the heavenly images of the sun, moon, and stars to the mother of the Seed in the vision of John identifies Israel as a second mother of the Seed of the Woman. As Isaiah foresaw the ministry of the Servant of the Lord, he wrote. "Look to Abraham your father and Sarah who gave birth to you *in pain*" (**Isa 51:2**). The mother of the Seed of the Woman would be Israel. So, the Seed has two mothers, Mary of Nazareth and Sarah, the wife of Abraham.

But there is yet one more mother identified in John's vision. The apostle states that as the Seed was born he escaped the lethal enmity of the Dragon and was "caught up to God and to his throne" (**Rev 12:5**). It was then that he received the iron scepter of David (**Rev 12:5, cf. Psalm 2:9**). This language describes the ascension of Jesus *after his resurrection from the grave* and not his nativity in Bethlehem. So, we are invited to consider that Jesus, in his resurrection from the grave, like Adam was born of the "womb" of the earth which had been subjected to the pain of vanity (**Job 1:20,21; Psalm 139:15; Rom 8:19-22**). The Seed of the Woman would have yet a third mother. Christ would be the Son of Mary of Nazareth, the Son of Sarah, and the Son of Mother Earth, the original mother of man.

The role of the Seed of the Woman would be to go before to “**prepare a place**” for his own people (**John 14:3**) just as had Joseph in Egypt for his father’s house (**Gen 45:4-10, 50:18-21**). The seed of the serpent, as John the Baptist and Jesus identified the religious leaders of Jerusalem (**Luke 3:7; cf. Matt 12:34, “scribes and Pharisees,” 23:33**), were only concerned that the Romans would come and take away their “*place*” (**John 11:48**). But in heaven, there was found no “*place*” for them (**Rev 12:8**). This dispossession aroused the wrath of the dragon and his servants and they turned their venom on the mother of the Seed of the Woman. So she fled into the safety of the wilderness where she had a **place prepared** for her (**Rev 12:6; cf. John 14:3**).

The child is clearly Christ.

12:3

This dragon is largely agreed upon to be Satan.

Many also consider it to be Satan in the form of a revived Roman Empire in the last days.

Others consider it to be a world power that attacks the people and things of God much in the same way Rome did in Jesus’ and the apostles’ day.

12:4

The dragon figure is always trying to destroy the woman’s Seed. Think of Pharaoh, think of Herod, both trying to destroy the woman’s seed. Even Haman in the book of Esther tried to eliminate the Jews in a holocaust, as well as Hitler (outside the Bible).

1/3 of the stars **Job 38:4-7**

See **Ezekiel 28:11-19**

Isaiah 14:12-21

This means there are twice as many good angels as bad!!

You can see the Satanic diligence Pharaoh and Herod had in slaughtering the male children in their day. (Herod was even an Edomite, a descendant of Esau (Edom means red [dragon color])). Pharaoh as dragon is seen in **Ezekiel 29:2; 32:2**

12:5

Fulfillment of **Psalm 2:9**

This is telling of His ascension

This speaks of Christ’s birth, rule, and ascension

12:6

The role of the Seed of the Woman would be to go before to “**prepare a place**” for his own people (**John 14:3**) just as had Joseph in Egypt for his father’s house (**Gen 45:4-10, 50:18-21**).

The woman is always the deliverer of the Seed.

- Sarah (from Ishmael)
- Rebekah (delivered Jacob from Esau’s death pronouncement)
- Jochebed, Moses’ mother
- Pharaoh’s daughter
- Shiphrah and Puah
- Esther
- Athaliah undone by Jehosheba in regards to Joash.

God is redeeming woman from the curse of Eve.

This is likely the 1,260 days of the last half of the tribulation period.

12:7

Michael means “who is like God?”

This is the perfect name for one who opposes the one who said “I will make myself like the Most High” (**Isaiah 14:14**)

12:8

The seed of the serpent, as John the Baptist and Jesus identified the religious leaders of Jerusalem (**Luke 3:7; cf. Matt 12:34, “scribes and Pharisees,” 23:33**), were only concerned that the Romans would come and take away their “**place**” (**John 11:48**). But in heaven, there was found no “**place**” for them (**Rev 12:8**). This dispossession aroused the wrath of the dragon and his servants and they turned their venom on the mother of the Seed of the Woman. So, she fled into the safety of the wilderness where she had a **place prepared for her** (**Rev 12:6; cf. John 14:3**).

12:9

Cast down – **Luke 10:18**

12:10

The accuser cast down

John 11:45-52

Pharisees as accusers (like Satan) **John 8:2-11**

12:11

Death has no victory or sting for those redeemed by Christ (**I Corinthians 15:55**)

This is why we are more than conquerors though we are like sheep led to the slaughter (**Romans 8:37**)

12:12

The great contrast between the redeemed and the unredeemed is seen in the words of this verse, "Rejoice" and "Woe".

12:13

War on the Earth

Since Jesus is ascended into heaven, Satan engages in warfare on the earth against His people, represented here by the woman

12:14

Wings of an eagle, see **Exodus 19:4** at the beginning of the Exodus and **Deuteronomy 32:9-11** for the end of the Exodus

In Psalms: **Psalms 17:8**

12:15-17

From the mouth of the dragon comes this flood to kill God's people.

Judgment comes from the mouth.

Think of Jesus with the 2-edged sword in His mouth when He comes to the world as Judge.

To understand what the flood is that comes from the dragon's mouth, consider **Matthew 3:4**

Here, the Pharisees are Draconic.

What is it that comes from their mouths that is intended to kill the people of God?

See **Matthew 23:13-36**

It is hypocrisy, particularly the hypocrisy of works salvation.

See **Galatians 2:17-21**

The dragon's greatest work of keeping mankind from the grace of God and the finished work of Jesus on the cross is to instill in us a righteousness that we think we can obtain on our own, apart from Jesus Christ.

